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Sanitary reports of Rio de Janeiro, January, 1904.

During the month of January, there was a considerable amelioration in the sanitary conditions of the Federal capital. If it were not for variola, which here never loses its epidemic character, it would be possible to consider the sanitary state of Rio as satisfactory. In the last thirty years there has been no instance like the present of yellow fever causing but two deaths during the month of January.

Comparing the mortality of this month with that of December, 1903, there is a difference in its favor of 70 deaths. Comparing the two months, we find that there are the following differences in the mortality from the principal transmittable diseases: Yellow fever, 2 in January as against 4 in December; plague, 22 as against 52; variola, 107 as against 162; measles, 6 against 16; scarlet fever, 2 against 0; whooping cough, 2 against 2; diphtheria, 2 against 6; grippe, 28 against 33; enteric fever, 15 against 12; dysentery, 5 against 2; beriberi, 19 against 8; leprosy, 1 against 3; malarial fevers, 55 against 59, and tuberculosis, 273 against 286. Excluding beriberi, which shows a considerable increase, the other transmittable diseases show a general favorable alteration during the first month of the current year.

At the central disinfection station notices were received of 132 cases of variola, 54 of plague, 15 of yellow fever, 4 of diphtheria, 2 of enteric fever, and 6 of tuberculosis, compared with 236 notices of variola, 99 of plague, 5 of yellow fever, 5 of diphtheria, 8 of measles, and 9 of tuberculosis received during December, 1903.

Of the 54 notices of the occurrence of plague, 34 cases were confirmed by bacteriological examination and 5 by clinical examination. During January 3,030 domiciliary disinfections were made, 2,141 pieces of clothing were disinfected, and 465 pieces of clothing were burned. Up to the last day of the month 35,481 rats had also been destroyed by burning.

The brigade against mosquitoes cleaned up 558 localities, where yellow-fever deaths had occurred during the last two epidemics, and destroyed 261 foci of mosquito larvæ and isolated 6 cases of yellow fever. From different houses 2,830 baskets of débris were removed, and from the interior of houses 8 cartloads of rubbish were taken away. In the general work of cleaning, 455 kilograms of pyrethrum were used, 6,319 kilograms of sulphur, 490 liters of alcohol, and 43 liters of kerosene.

Health inspectors made 30,387 domiciliary visits, of which number 22,210 were made by the sanitary police, and the remainder by the vigilance committee.

Five persons were inoculated against plague.

Of those isolated in hospital Paulo Candido, 12 died during the month, and at the close of the month 25 remained under treatment. During the month 7 persons ill with yellow fever were admitted to São Sebastião Hospital and 98 ill with variola. Of these persons 54 died from variola and none from yellow fever.

The thermometer recorded as its highest during January 34.4° C., and as its lowest, 19.8° C. Average for month, 25.83° C.

The movement of the population was in excess of 5,332, counting those coming and going by land and sea.